

## **BMQG, Inc.**

The Belknap Mill Quilters' Guild, Inc. (BMQG) was founded in May of 1978, meeting at the historic Belknap Mill. It is a non-profit organization dedicated to fostering the art of quilting and fiber arts. Our goals are to provide educational opportunities in the quilting arts for our members by presenting workshops, classes and demonstrations on the basics of quilting as well as on the newest techniques and art forms available. Membership is open to any individual and our membership ranges from beginning quilters to experienced quilters and teachers.

### **Meeting location and time**

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month except October at 6:30 PM at the Beane Center, 35 Blueberry Lane, Laconia, NH. A social time begins at 6:30 PM followed by a business meeting and monthly program starting at 7:00 PM. Programs have included trunk shows, lectures, and demonstrations provided by members or invited guests and member show & tell.

### **Cancellation of Meetings**

Guild meetings will be cancelled due to inclement weather when school is cancelled in Laconia. Members may also call Ila Mattila, Membership Chair at (603) 527-9476 to verify that the meeting has been cancelled or listen to notices on the local radio stations.

### **Dues**

Annual dues are \$25.00 per fiscal year and are due on May 1 of each year. The fiscal year is from May 1 to April 30 each year.

### **Committees and Activities**

All guild activities are voluntary; however members are always encouraged to participate in the Quilt Show and sell raffle tickets for the Raffle Quilt.

### **Annual Quilt Show**

The guild hosts a Quilt Show, "*Harvest of Quilts*", each year on the first weekend in October. This two day quilt show is our major fund raiser for guild activities and charitable donations. All members from the guild are NEEDED to make this show a reality and all participation is GREATLY appreciated. Beginning in 2016, we will hold our Quilt Show at the Gilford Youth Center, 19 Potter Hill Road, Gilford, NH.

This show includes quilts of all sizes and designs. It also includes vendors, a café, Guild table, door prizes, raffles, Viewer's Choice awards and is always well attended. All members are encouraged to submit their quilts for viewing.

### **Community Comfort Quilts**

Each year the guild holds at least two sit & sew meetings to make quilts, bed size and crib size, which are donated to local community organizations which serve people who are in need. These

organizations include but are not limited to New Beginnings Women's Crisis Center, Spaulding Youth Center, and the Interlakes Children's Christmas Fund. The Comfort Quilt Program is ongoing and has provided hundreds of quilts to the community.

### **Fund Raising Quilt**

Each year the guild creates a queen size quilt to be raffled off at the annual quilt show. This is a group effort with members making individual blocks at a sit & sew guild meeting. The quilt is assembled and quilted by guild members. Raffle tickets are sold throughout the summer and fall with the drawing in October. These funds, along with the Quilt Show revenues, are used for our charitable funding both locally and to the NE Quilt Museum in Lowell, MA.

### **Hospitality**

The Hospitality committee arranges for coffee and refreshments for each monthly meeting. All members are asked to volunteer to bring refreshments on an assigned basis.

### **Newsletter**

The newsletter, **Material Matters**, is published in May, July, September, November, January and March of each year. It contains information on workshops, programs, calendar of events, and general news and advertisements. The newsletter is distributed on the second Wednesday of the month published and may be received electronically via email or may be picked up

at the membership meeting. Submissions for the newsletter must be submitted to the editor by the Friday (midnight) after the monthly Board Meeting. The Newsletter can also be found on our website.

### **Fat Quarter Raffle**

Each month, members are asked to participate in a free fat quarter raffle. For each fat quarter you bring to the meeting, you receive a raffle ticket and the drawing will be during the business portion of the meeting. A list of monthly themes for the fat quarters is posted on the website.

### **Programs & Workshops**

Programs are arranged by the Program Co-Chairs. They schedule programs of interest for monthly meetings and coordinate arrangements for workshops sponsored by the Guild.

Dinner meetings are held twice a year in May and December with special programs. The May meeting is the annual membership meeting highlighted by installation of officers and awards. The December meeting has a holiday theme and is the time that the guild challenge is unveiled for completion by a designated spring meeting.

### **Membership & Door Prizes**

The membership co-chairs welcome members and guests to every meeting. New members are presented an information sheet about the Guild, a copy of the membership

list, membership card and instructions on making the Guild name badge. If there is an outside guest speaker, a guest fee of \$5 is collected from non-members. A door prize is given out at each meeting. Eligibility for the door prize chances include attending the meeting, wearing a name tag, participating in the Fat Quarter Raffle and a project for show and tell. Member birthdays are celebrated each month with a selection of fat quarter "birthday candles" and the birthday song.

### **BMQG Challenge**

Each year the BMQG challenges members' creativity. At the December dinner meeting a challenge packet of directions is given out. The finished project is submitted anonymously in a brown paper bag at a designated spring meeting. Members vote on the best response to the challenge. This is always lots of fun and full of surprises.

### **Scholarship Program**

Each year a scholarship is given to a student entering college in the arts/fiber arts program. This student is selected through the Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation and awarded to them in the Spring.

### **The Getaway**

Each year, BMQG sponsors a spring weekend "Getaway" at the Red Jacket Inn in North Conway. Members and others interested in spending a weekend sewing, sharing fun and frolic and possibly learning something new have a great time at this scenic resort.



## **Welcome To the Belknap Mill Quilters Guild**

**PO Box 6174, Laconia, NH 03247**

Email: [Belknapmillquilters@yahoo.com](mailto:Belknapmillquilters@yahoo.com)

NEW WEBSITE:  
[www.bmqg.org](http://www.bmqg.org)

